

DeLuca to depart

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Chief to step down
under agreement
reached with town

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DeLuca to leave police department soon

Duxbury Police Chief Mark DeLuca will be leaving sooner than expected as part of an agreement with the town.

According to Town Counsel Robert Troy, there was an "agreement in principal" between the chief and the town, worked out in an executive session held Monday night that took up the entire scheduled meeting.

The details of the deal have been left to be worked out between Troy and DeLuca's attorney, Gerard McAuliffe, said Troy.

According to Troy, DeLuca will receive a payment that adjusts his salary as recognition of achieving accreditation for the department. He will also receive a payment for unused vacation time. According to his contract, DeLuca is eligible to receive that payment if he retires or resigns. His contract calls for four weeks of vacation time a year.

Officially, DeLuca will resign once the agreement is finalized.

Under the agreement, both sides will release the other from any legal claims they might have against the other.

The total dollar figure has not been finalized, but Troy said he hoped to have it finished by the end of the week. McAuliffe and Troy were scheduled to meet Thursday.

The resolution of the dispute over the chief's contract is not a sudden

thing, Troy said. "We've been talking about this issue for months." The parties to the dispute—Town Manager Richard MacDonald, the board of

selectmen, DeLuca and the attorneys, met last Monday in what Troy called "a lengthy session" where they agreed to resolve the matter.

While Troy credited selectmen for having the best interests of the town in mind in reaching this resolution, there are still hard feelings over what transpired.

"I am extremely disappointed," said Selectman Chris Donato, a vocal supporter of the police chief. It's a shame we're losing a 10-year veteran, every evaluation is got was outstanding."

According to Donato, DeLuca had not received an evaluation for the past three years.

It was difficult for everyone," said Selectmen Chairman Elizabeth Sullivan, "we've never dealt with this before,

hopefully we'll never have to deal with it in the future."

Sullivan declined to comment further on the agreement with DeLuca, other than to say that she was satisfied with the agreement. "This was a circumstance that was unique," she noted.

"I think the wrong individual is leaving," said Donato, referring to the town manager, "we're already paying" for what Donato termed "mistakes" by MacDonald.

"It was already established there was no just cause to terminate the police chief," said Donato.

Donato called for a vote to remove the town manager, but withdrew his motion when it received no support.

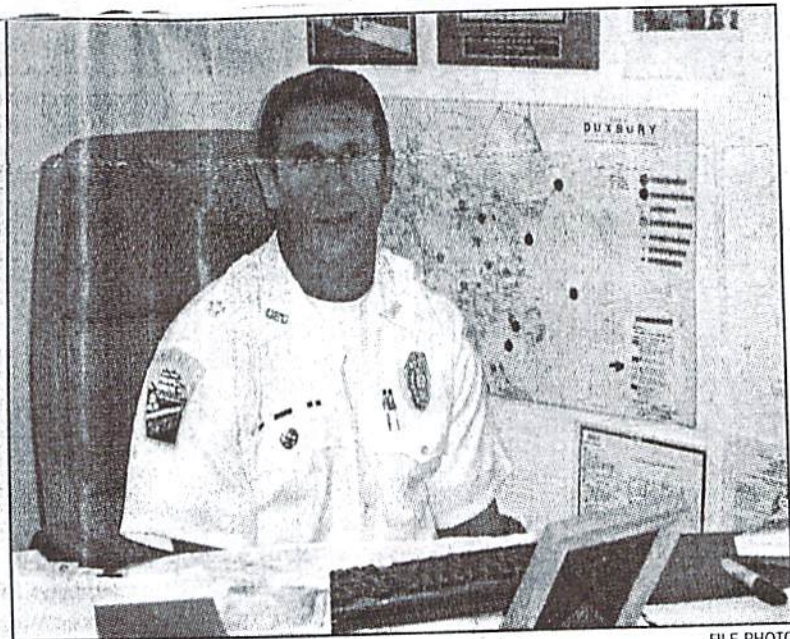
Town Manager Richard MacDonald did not return a call by press time and Chief Mark DeLuca declined to com-

ment on the settlement negotiations, other than to say they were ongoing.

Lt. Lewis Chubb will serve as acting police chief, according to DeLuca.

Who left the camera on?

The next question that selectmen need answered is to find out how the camera was left on during a portion of the executive session. Residents were reportedly able to watch a portion of the closed-door meeting before selectmen were alerted to the fact and moved the meeting out of the Mural Room. According to both Troy and Sullivan, a woman came in and started the camera during the brief open session of the meeting, then left when the board went into executive session. Troy said she assured selectmen all the equipment had been turned off before she left.



Outgoing Duxbury Police Chief Mark DeLuca

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